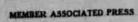
### TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the Tonopah Bonanza Printing Co.,





W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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#### DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS

CLARK county, after three years immunity, has a grand jury empaneled for the purpose of investigating the conduct and fit- oil type and is put in to replace the and wondered off into the desert. Ely ness of elective officers of that county. This is not the express pur- former one which failed to give satispose of summoning the jury but the court, in passing upon the duties faction. of the grand jury, enjoined the members not to dereliet or care less in acquitting themselves of their bounden obligation. Judge Horsey, the jurist in question, will not be satisfied with the usual Christensen while he was down to the perfunctory examination of books or a routine report, such as has coast before sending it up here. It been the prevalent custom with all grand juries from time immemorial. His Honor insists on greater exactitude and demands that the jury inquire more closely into the conduct of each officer to the end will be equipped with two separate that he may be advised precisely what is going on and how the tax- light and power units, either of which payers' money is expended. The chief features embodied in the charge will be able to take care of the town's are contained in the following excerpt from his instructions which requirements.—Battle Mountain Scout. may be applied to others than the officeholders of Clark county. The action of the court is not instigated by any desire to secure incriminating evidence but for the purpose of illuminating the situation and giving taxpayers the satisfaction of knowing what is being done with the vast sums of money collected each year for county expenses.

Following is the extract which is commended to the next grand jury of Nye county:

It is very important that the people, and the grand jury representing the public, should keep in touch with their public affairs, and the management, control and conduct of the various officers of the county, so, your committees should not only perform an investigation, but should make a thorough investigation of the affairs of the several county officers, to determine whether the duties of the various officers are being properly performed; whether there has been proper conduct of the various public offices, and the con dition of county affairs in general. Oftentimes things occur in regard to the performance of the duties of a particular office of which the citizens do not have any knowledge, and it is only by thorough investigation that conditions become known, and it is well that those investigations occur periodically, because sometimes our im pressions are wrong in regard to public offices. We may have no reason to believe but what things are going along very satisfactorily. and yet sometimes they are not. At least the citizens have a right to know what the conditions are, and it is the special duty of the grand jury to determine what the conditions are, and whether the officers are performing their duties. It is not only misfeasance in office-not only some active misconduct that the law seeks to prevent, but the law also provides against a failure or neglect to perform the duties of an office.

#### MAINTAINING SURPLUS FUNDS

HE NEW YORK COMMERCIAL is not satisfied with the enor mous earning capacity of the leading mining companies for the financial editor of that paper grows captious in criticising the management of certain companies which refrain from dividing the full earnings with their stockholders. The editor in a censorious mood goes on to state "Holders of mining shares dislike the holding back of profits by the directors. An industrial concern or a railroad can make good use of eash surpluses, but a mining company does not need a large surplus in its treasury and the holders want the money that belong to them. Such is their contention and the reason for the unpopularity of mining shares when profits and production are so large." This objection reads like an academic criticism for there is no business where a large cash reserve can be utilized to such advantage as in a mining company. From the very nature of the investment it is precarious to the extent that every dollar taken from the ground leaves the property that much weaker for the money derived from this production of mineral cannot be restored. Nevertheless there remains the unassailable fact that, with a large cash reserve, a going company is better equipped to secure the best results for its stockholders than a company that drags out existence with lean treasury. For instance the leading Tonopah companies have developed the practice of building up large surpluses for the purpose of acquiring other properties or extending the scope of operations inherent to the parent company. In pursuit of this policy the inter ests of the stockholders are conserved. The speculator may except to the retention of earnings but it is not the speculators whose wel fare appeals to boards of directors. It is the investment stockholder who has to be protected and safeguarded to the extent that his money will not be frittered away until at the end of a certain period he will find himself deprived of both principal and interest. The Tonopah Mining company and the Tonopah Belmont Development company furnish excellent illustrations of the beneficial nature of this principle. The former company for example on an original investment of \$1,000,000 in eleven years has disbursed dividends amounting to something over \$13,000,000 or, at the rate of almost 100 per cent per annum. In addition to this the same company has built up a reserve of several millions for the purpose of perpetuating the life of the company. These millions represent gilt edged assets distributed over a wide field. In Colorado the Tonopah Placers company is netting approximately \$120,000 a quarter for the parent company and down in Nicaragua two other gold mining companies are fast approaching the productive stage where they will begin to repay the progenitor company every dollar expended on their development and likewise enter on a course of dividends that every body hopes will rival the disbursements of the original company. Had the Tonopah Mining company distributed to stockholders every cent of earnings as fast as they accrued there would not have remained any funds for outside investments of a judicious character and the life of the company would have expired in the regular cycle of events.

The Belmont has had an equally lustrous period and credit is due its excellent management for the foresight displayed in safeguarding the interests of stockholders. This wisdom was not displayed alone in securing other land, let up hope, equally promising properties, but in earrying a heavy stock of silver through a period of depression when there was not market for silver at anything akin to normal prices. Had it not been for the heavy surplus maintained by the Belmont the directors might have been forced to curtail operations or sacrifice their product to the great detriment of stockholders and the impairment of dividends. With the large surplus this ex

pany has bought a prospective gold mine in British Columbia and taken an option on another huge low grade gold propositioin in Ne vada that insures a continuance of dividends for many years to come

These are only local cases cited for the purpose of proving the value of having a large surplus in the treasury and there is no doubt but that the Nevada Consolidated Copper company and the Utah Cop per company and show equally good use of their surplus funds. The Nevada Copper company will have a cash surplus of \$9,500,000 when the June dividend falls due or, an increase of more than \$4,000,000 since January 1, 1916. Earnings for the second quarter of the year are estimated at \$3,100,000 with dividend requirements, on the basis of 50 cents per share, of \$999,728. This company has expended vast sums in reducing the costs of production all of which insures to the benefit of the stockholder and, as there is not other outlet for the surplusage, it is not unreasonable to expect the announcement of an extra dividend to absorb some of the income which is piling up at the rate of \$1.55 per share quarterly when the dividend only calls for 50 cents a share. However, it should be borne in mind that less than two years ago the Nevada Con, was reduced to the extremity of restricting its production for want of a market.

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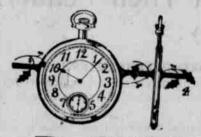
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ELY MAN MISSING

J. E. Alken, who was largely inter ested in Ely realty, recently disappear ed from his ranch in Esmeralda coun ed and has been set up in the power ty and it is feared that he met his death with foul play or lost his mind



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